Sardar Sarovar Project

2236. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:
SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has been requesting time and again to grant a status of Infrastructure Project to Sardar Sarovar Project and also declared it as National Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the reasons for Sardar Sarovar Project not being declared as a national asset alongwith 14 river projects declared as national asset in February, 2008 in the country, even though it is the largest water resource development project of its type in the country and also in the wider interest of four States, *viz.,* Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan; and

(d) the criteria for deciding a River Project as a 'National Project'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) As per guidelines for implementation of the scheme of the National Projects, the State Governments are required to submit the proposals for inclusion of new projects in the list of National Projects in prescribed format and as per procedure prescribed in the guidelines. Accordingly, no proposal has been received from Government of Gujarat for declaring Sardar Sarovar Project as National Project. Inclusion of a project as a national project is made by the Union Cabinet on case to case basis. Inclusion of any specific project as national project depends on submission of the proposal by the concerned State Government and approval thereto of the Union Cabinet after following due procedure prescribed in the guidelines.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Sardar Sarovar Project is already eligible for 90% Central Grant for the irrigation component of the project falling under drought prone and tribal area. The Power Houses of the project had already been completed. Till date, the Sardar Sarovar Project has been provided with Central Assistance of Rs. 5375.3585 crore under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) which is highest Central assistance provided to any project in the country.

As per guidelines, the following are the criteria for declaring a project as National Project:—

1. International projects where usage of water in India is required by a treaty or where planning and early completion of the project is necessary in the interest of the country.

2. Inter-State projects which are dragging on due to non-resolution of Inter-State issues relating to sharing of costs, rehabilitation, aspects of power production etc., including river interlinking projects.

3. Intra-State projects with additional potential of more than 2.00.000 hectare (ha) and with no dispute regarding sharing of water and where hydrology is established.

Metallic substances as ground water

2237. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the groundwater in most parts of the country contain arsenic, chemical and metallic substances;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has since taken any steps to check/protect the groundwater from such hazardous chemicals etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) As per information received from Central Ground Water Board, groundwater quality problems like high salinity, fluoride contamination, arsenic, iron, nitrate etc. have been observed in some parts of the country as per details given in enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The steps taken in view of the groundwater quality problems include the following:—

(i) Exploratory drilling by CGWB to find out ground water sources free from Arsenic/Fluoride and other geogenic contaminants.

(ii) Financial and technical assistance to help provision of safe drinking water under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP).

(iii) Financial assistance is provided to States under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) for provision of safe drinking water.

(iv) Notification of effluent standards for various industries and monitoring of compliance thereof.

(v) Preparation of Environmental Management Plan for restoration of environmental quality in critically polluted areas.

Statement

State-wise number of districts where problem of groundwater contamination has been reported in Isolated pockets

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of districts
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	1